

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
June 9, 2014

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2014 meeting as amended. The motion passed with all in favor.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Neighborhood Assistance Act Programs

The Town Clerk read the public hearing notice. Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter summarized the program and the four proposed projects.

No comments were offered by the public. The public hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m.

2. Proposed Banners and Smoking Ban

The Town Clerk read the public hearing notice. Parks and Recreation Director Curt Vincente commented on the proposed changes to the Parks Rules and Regulations.

Mona Friedland, Beech Mountain Road and member of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, spoke in favor of a smoking ban in Town parks and urged the Council to develop a stand-alone ordinance for the Town Square which would also prohibit smoking. (Statement attached)

Ray Haddad, Conantville Road, objected to the prohibition of firearms in Town parks and urged the Council to delete the reference or to change the wording to "Firearms by permit only." Mr. Haddad also objected to the proposed prohibition of smoking in Town parks. (Statement attached).

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, encouraged Council members to review the materials he submitted and argued that Councilors currently do not have sufficient information to go forward. (Submitted documents will be included as a communication in the 6/23/2014 packet).

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, expressed his concerns that the smoking ban would be difficult to enforce.

The public hearing was closed at 8:00 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Wilfred Bigl, resident, town employee, member of the Housing Code Board of Appeals and the Emergency Management Committee, but speaking tonight as the Chair of the Commission on Aging, requested the Council install a seated bus stop on the north side of South Eagleville near the Community Center. Mr. Bigl noted many elderly residents use this bus stop. (Statement attached)

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, requested help from the Council to extend the North Eagleville sidewalk to Southwood Road. She noted the neighborhood has lobbied for a sidewalk for over 20 years.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, questioned how much money has been put aside for enforcement of a smoking ban in Town parks, and asked if the rule change would generate revenue. Mr. Smith urged members to be respectful of the opinions of others. Brian Coleman, Centre Street, objected to the revote on the Safe Routes Walkway and asked that a number of items be added to future agendas. (Statement attached)

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V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager reported the Transportation Advisory Committee will look at the extension of the North Eagleville Road sidewalk to Southwood Road. Mr. Hart noted that the project is underway and is being run as a Town project, funded by UConn.

A copy of the fee schedule for the transfer station will be provided to Councilors. Staff will poll members regarding a date for a tour of the transfer station.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson thanked staff members for their efforts which allowed Price Chopper to open on time. The Mayor also attended the Annual Awards Dinner for the Chamber of Commerce at which a number of Mansfield businesses and individuals were honored. In response to a request by Ms. Wassmundt to review the Town Council Rules and Procedures and Roberts Rules of Order, the Mayor suggested this issue be referred to the Personnel Committee as they are already reviewing the use of electronic devices during Council meetings.

Mr. Ryan reported the Finance Committee meeting will be rescheduled.

Ms. Moran congratulated Greg Zlotnick of Zlotnick Construction for the company's ability to finish the Price Chopper store on time.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

3. Proposed Amendments to Parks Rules and Regulations: Program Sponsorship Signs and Banners and Smoking Ban

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to suspend the Town Council Rules of Procedures and move immediate consideration of the amendments to Parks Rules and Regulations. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective June 9, 2014, to accept the proposed amendments to the Parks Rules and Regulations, which amendments shall be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield.

Council members discussed the need for more data regarding the impact of second hand smoke in open areas, monitoring and enforcement plans, the value of modeling healthy behaviors, clarification of language with regards to the use of nicotine patches, litter and whether the restriction burdens a specific group.

Ms. Wassmundt moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to postpone the vote on the motion until the next meeting. The motion failed with Kegler, Raymond and Wassmundt in favor and Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Ryan, and Shapiro against.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to amend the motion by striking Section O, Smoking and Use of Tobacco/Nicotine Products, from the original motion with the understanding that there will be an opportunity to discuss the issue at a future date. The motion passed with all in favor except Moran, Paterson, and Shapiro who voted against the motion.

The original motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

4. Neighborhood Assistance Act Programs

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the following resolution:

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Resolved, to approve the following projects for submission to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services for inclusion in the 2013 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program: water harvesting project at the Mansfield Community Center; community playground at the Mansfield Community Center; energy efficiency/water conservation program for low and moderate income homeowners; and development of a new community clinic and support facility for United Services, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Storrs Center Update
No additional comments were offered
6. Community/Campus Relations
The Town/University Relations Committee will meet on June 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. The Town and UConn are continuing to work on a proposed business plan and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Community School for the Arts. The plan and MOA will be on the next Council agenda.
Proposals for an impact study regarding the UConn Next Generation have been received and are being reviewed. The Town Manager also reported that the Department of Transportation has agreed to support a study of the major transportation corridors to UConn.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

7. FY 2014/2015 Nonunion Compensation and Benefits Changes
Personnel Committee Chair Toni Moran moved to approve the proposed changes in compensation and benefits for non-union regular staff, effective July 1, 2014. Supported by the Personnel Committee the recommendation parallels the Public Works settlement.
The motion passed unanimously.
8. Reappointment to Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors
Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, to appoint Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to the Board of Directors of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, for a term commencing on July 1, 2014 and expiring on June 30, 2017.
The motion passed unanimously.
9. Appointment to WRTD Board of Directors
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, to appoint Matthew W. Hart to the Windham Region Transit District, for a term commencing on June 9, 2014 and expiring on June 8, 2016, and Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, to appoint Alexander Marcellino to the Windham Region Transit District, for a term commencing on June 9, 2014 and expiring on June 8, 2018.
The motions passed unanimously.
10. Independence Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee
Mr. Kochenburger, Ms. Raymond and Ms. Moran will present an Independence Day Ceremonial Presentation at the June 23, 2014 Town Council meeting.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported a time frame for the Town Manager's evaluation has been set and members will soon receive additional information on the process.

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments were offered.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. E. Paterson/J. Goodwin re: Engineering and Science Building Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)
12. E. Paterson/J. Goodwin re: STEM Residence Hall Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)
13. Zoning Board of Appeals Legal Notice

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Kegler and Mr. Ryan requested the bus stop structure suggested by the Commission on Aging be added to the July 14, 2014 agenda.

Ms. Moran requested additional information regarding smoking in public parks.

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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